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The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union* 524. [NON-PARTY.

VOL. VII., No. 335.] FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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Notes and News.

Torpedoed—Without Warning.

On the night of Saturday, September 4th, the Allan liner *Hesperian*, outward bound, like the *Arabic*, was torpedoed without warning off the coast of Ireland. Thirty-three people are missing or dead. On the previous Tuesday Count Bernstorff, German Ambassador to the United States, had informed Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State, that "liners will not be sunk by our submarines without warning and without ensuring the safety of the lives of non-combatants providing that the liners do not try to escape nor offer resistance." He adds that this policy was decided upon by his Government "before the *Arabic* incident" (*sic*). That outrage took place on August 19th. Fifteen days after this date the submarines are still carrying out the dastardly policy of murder on a "liner" which neither attempted to resist nor to escape. It is not to be wondered at if neutral opinion inclines to consider this another example of German duplicity. Or does Admiral von Tirpitz persist in carrying out his own policy in defiance of the German Government?

The Position of Women's Employment.

At a meeting, under the auspices of the Women's Trade Union League, held during the present Trade Union Congress at Bristol, Miss Mary Macarthur, giving a report of women's employment during a year of war, said that the steady improvement in the state of employment, due to the enormous demand for war material, had turned attention from the problems of relieving distress to the question of wages, which had become critical, she thought, through the ill-considered action of the Board of Trade in calling upon women of all classes to register for war service, while giving no advice as to the rates of pay which they should demand.

Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., moving the adoption of the report, pointed out that after the war, when the men came back, women would require a stronger organisation to protect their interests than was the case even now.

During the meetings of the British Association, held this week in Manchester, the section concerned with Economic Science discussed a report which deals with the replacement of men by women in industries, and its probable effects. We discuss in this issue the part of the report which contains a survey of the general position of women's employment at the present time, and propose, in subsequent issues, to discuss the sections which deal with the possible limitations of women in industry and their position after the war, and with the vexed question of wages.

"Taking Up a Man's Work."

An interesting point was made by Mme. Van Bioma-Hymans, in a speech recently delivered, as President of the Conseil National des Femmes des Pays-Bas, at Harlem. Reviewing the part women are bound to play in war-time, from a social and economic point of view, Mme. Van Bioma-Hymans said that "she had come to the conclusion that in no country in Europe were the women ready and prepared to face the abnormal conditions which arose out of the outbreak of hostilities. She said that the education of the majority of women positively unfitted them for taking up a man's work, either in the home or in business of any kind, and expressed the hope that in future the spheres of activity for men and women would not be kept so entirely apart. She thought, herself, that the tragical condition of things pointed to compulsory public service for women." The war has undoubtedly found out many weak points in our social life; and the segregation of the sexes is one of them. Many women now find themselves called upon to perform feats of transformation as parts of unfamiliar social or industrial machinery, under a searching cross-fire of criticism. They are being weighed and tested, even while they are struggling to fit themselves, all at once into the new existence. This industrial dislocation would always have been severely felt; but it has been made a hundred times more severe than it need have been by the old prejudice which has refused to admit women as fellow-workers, and made real co-operation artificially hard. How many educated women in Great Britain would be able, for instance, to drop into their father's or brother's counting-house to replace a clerk who has enlisted? Yet how many would be glad if they could do this; and how many have done it—in France. As for carrying on a business, even the family business, on which their bread depends, or superintending a factory—the women capable of manning the breach might be counted in tens. Getting and spending have been kept so strictly apart that few women know how the money that they spend is made.

A Lamentable Lack of Training.

This unpreparedness of women to take up men's work is brought out very clearly in the British Association's report, which lays stress on the disastrous consequences of neglecting to train women for skilled work in the early days of the war. The importance of training women to take men's places in certain industries was pointed out in August of last year in a memorandum sent to the War Office by the Executive of the N.U.W.S.S., and circulated to the press; but the Government failed to realise on how vast a scale such substitution would be necessary, and made little attempt to provide against the shortage of skilled labour from which we are now suffering. Had the authorities possessed sufficient imagination to organise classes for women and girls throughout the country, and ascertain in advance in which branches of the various equipment and munition trades they could be used with advantage, women would by now have been able to play a far more important part in industry than they are acually doing. At present, according to the Report, women are for the most part only replacing men in processes "which were previously thought *just* above the line of their skill and strength," where

they have been given a fair opportunity to show what they can do, their success has been beyond what the majority of employers would have considered possible.

What is a Fair Opportunity?

Unfortunately, this fair opportunity is rarely given. As the report points out, women need encouragement and sympathy when they come into new surroundings to take up fresh work, hitherto thought too difficult for them, and "the ordinary male workshop attitude is not one in which their best powers and abilities are encouraged." Compared with the youth who has been in a workshop several years, and gradually acquired a certain amount of skill and self-confidence, the newly-entering women and girls are both timid and inefficient. Starting, very often, with a rate of pay too low to provide them with a proper amount of food, they are more easily tired than a young man earning, perhaps, double the amount, and never become really efficient. This leads to a low estimate of women's capacity, and keeps them on the lower rungs of the industrial ladder.

"The Englishwoman" Exhibition.

As a record of the best that women are doing in craftsmanship, the annual exhibitions of *The Englishwoman* are of great importance, and we are glad to learn that their fifth exhibition is to be held this year in the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 17th to November 27th. These exhibitions have always maintained an exceptionally high standard, only handicraft workers of outstanding merit being accepted by the committee. As usual, many village industries will exhibit, and it is of the utmost importance that these should not be allowed to lapse for lack of support, as they afford good openings for many of our wounded soldiers who are unfitted for more laborious work.

Women Signallers.

Women of education who wish to join this corps should apply at once to the Secretary, General Headquarters, 184A, Oxford Street, London, W. A number of members of the Women Signallers Territorial Corps have had a splendid holiday in a seaside camp, doing their own cooking and general work, "and getting their training." Several autumn weeks of fine weather are still ahead of us. Those who have not been able to take their holiday earlier might still arrange to go into camp.

The Protection of Children.

The Metropolitan Police are co-operating closely with the London County Council, says *The Manchester Guardian*, to prevent the molestation of children and to secure the conviction of offenders. Head-masters and head-mistresses are asked to forward a report, marked "Urgent," at once to the local police if they hear of any such case. Many head-mistresses make a practice of warning their pupils never to enter into conversation with strange men in the streets, park, or open spaces; a practice which might, with advantage, be generally adopted.

The Right Way Round.

Somebody has heard a faint moan from our friends the Anti-Suffragists, that women are serving their country in order to get the vote. Groping in the twilight, among ideas to which they are not quite accustomed, people do sometimes take hold of a notion hind-part-before, and then complain that "it doesn't do." But some day of glorious dawn our friends will find out with joy what women are really doing—getting the vote in order to serve their country. It will make such a difference to them to get the idea the right way round.

Women in the Workshops.

We should like to call our readers' attention to the article of extraordinary interest in *The Engineer* of September 3rd, which receives notice in another column (see p. 276).

The Extension of Women's Work Since the War.

I.—GENERAL SURVEY.

Much valuable material is contained in the report considered by the British Association last Thursday on the replacement of men by women as a result of the war, and the possible permanent effects of this displacement. It is too soon, the investigators consider, to form any very definite opinion as to the probable extent of this replacement, or the measure of success which is likely to attend various experiments that are being made; but certain general aspects of the question are dealt with, and interesting details given of wages and conditions in particular trades.

It will be remembered that in the early weeks of the war women suffered far more than men from the temporary trade depression, many being engaged in "luxury trades," which were the first to decline. Gradually, however, as recruiting absorbed large numbers of men, and big contracts for the Army and Navy were placed, women found work in other industries. "Unskilled and industrially ill-equipped as the great majority of them were," says the report, "they poured into those trades —leather, tailoring, metal trades, chemicals and explosives, food trades, hosiery, and the wool and worsted industry which had been suddenly revived by the placing of large orders by our own and the Allied Governments." But it must be noted that "the new demand was, to a large extent, for a class of goods in the production of which female labour normally predominates." What took place was mainly the transferring of women's labour from one group of semi-skilled trades, in which there was a surplus, to another group of semi-skilled trades in which there was a deficit; not the displacement of men's by women's labour.

Delay in Starting Training for Women.

This displacement has even now occurred only to a very limited extent, and it was not realised for some months after the war broke out that it was likely to become necessary. Consequently, in spite of warnings from some of the leading women's organisations, no steps were taken to organise and train women to make good the enormous shortage in skilled men which, by December, had become apparent "not only in those industries in which the work is heavy and technical, but in those in which the women outnumber the men. . . . In some industries employers attempted to train women, but in most cases the time was too short, the experiment too risky, the pressure of business too great for employers to become enthusiastic over such schemes. Where it was possible to transfer women from one branch of a trade where work was slack to an allied branch in which work was brisk this was done, but there were limitations to such transference. Women were untrained industrially, and, as week after week went by, the lack of skilled men became more and more marked."

"In many cases boys and youths were transferred from slack to busy industries, or promoted within the industry to take the place of men, and their places taken by women and girls. In other cases the work was reorganised and sub-divided" (a shifting which, in many cases, met with a good deal of trade-union opposition), "or new machinery was introduced to facilitate the employment of female labour; but still the fact was obvious that skilled workers were required, and women were, for the most part, untrained and inexperienced."

The Shortage of Munitions.

Then came the realisation of our lamentable shortage of munitions. Since the formation of a Ministry of Munitions many thousands of women have entered the metal and engineering trades, in which a large amount of unskilled and semi-skilled labour can be used, especially in such processes as filling shells; and some firms are also employing women in branches of work hitherto done by men, with satisfactory results. Unfortunately, however, there is still a vast amount of prejudice against em-

ploying women in skilled labour, and their incapacity is far too readily taken for granted. A few enlightened employers are making experiments in training girls, but the majority will not trouble. There has been a good deal of opposition, too, on the part of male trade unionists.

Most employers, the investigators of the Association state, seem to be agreed that "women generally are averse to undertaking jobs other than the more mechanical and routine ones." No doubt they are, when they are paid a wage that cannot provide them with adequate food, and when they return at night to prepare their own scanty meal and do their own housework. Still less likely are they to crave responsibility when they have to do the housework for a family in addition to wage-earning. But it would be illuminating to see what strong, healthy young women could accomplish working under men's conditions, with plenty of good, wholesome food, prepared for them by others, and no household tasks to perform out of working hours.

Results of a Fair Opportunity.

Some interesting details are contained in the report of what has been accomplished where women have been given a fair opportunity of showing what they can do:—

"In spite, however, of the view which we have found to be the prevalent one among the majority of employers, experience arising out of necessity is teaching that, given the opportunity, women can produce work which, in spite of their lack of industrial experience, compares favourably with similar work done by men. In some engineering shops where every facility has been given to women to undertake new work involving some judgment and skill their work has reached a high pitch of excellence, and has been little inferior in output to that of men. In the past in engineering women have been employed almost entirely on 'repetition' work. During the past few months, however, considerable and far-reaching changes have been effected which are likely to have a very marked effect after the war. In a factory which is engaged in the production of projectiles in sizes up to those required for 4.5 in. guns, a new department was started a short time ago, the workpeople being women, under the direction and supervision of a few expert men. Though the majority of the women were raw hands totally unaccustomed to tools, it was found that within a few days they performed good work, turned out accurately to gauge. Much of the work was of a character demanding intelligence of a high degree and involving intricate operations. The women have shown initiative as well as manipulative dexterity—*e.g.*, in a certain screwing operation it was customary, before the employment of women, to rough the thread out with the tool and then to finish it off with taps. Some trouble having arisen owing to the wearing of the taps, the women on their own initiative did away with the second operation, and are now accurately chasing the threads to gauge with the tool alone.* This is work of which any mechanic might feel proud. Within the past few months women have also undertaken heavier work than before they were thought capable of doing. They have carried out arduous operations such as forging, hitherto only done by men, and have shown a mechanical ability and initiative which few employers or men's trade unions will admit. They are turning out 18-lb. high explosive shells and Russian 3-in. shrapnel, work involving twenty-one operations, all of which are now done by women. On the delicate work necessary for time-fuses they are found particularly suitable. Women need encouragement and sympathy in their new surroundings, and the ordinary male workshop attitude is not one in which their best powers and abilities are encouraged. The standards of the past are too apt still to bar the way to the encouragement of women's employment in other than mere mechanical work. Skilled workmen are often selfish and employers prejudiced, and their attitude often prevents any serious attempt at substituting women for men. Examples such as those given above are not frequent, but they indicate something of the possibilities of the replacement of men by women, especially in munitions, where women are increasingly needed."

* Quoted from *The Engineer*, August 20th, 1915.

Progress in Non-Industrial Occupations.

In certain non-industrial occupations, such as clerical work, women have replaced men to a much greater extent than they have done in industry proper. They are now, for instance, doing work previously done by men in certain forms of railway and vehicle work, such as ticket-collecting, carriage-cleaning, and tram and 'bus-conducting, also in various forms of retail distributive work inside retail shops, as well as outside work, like van-driving and delivery, and in warehouse work such as packing and despatching. Government departments, local authorities, banks, insurance and other offices, as well as ordinary business houses are also replacing men by women upon their clerical staff.

Even in such occupations, however, the work done by women appears to be seldom exactly similar to that done by men, and too often some very slight difference in work is made an excuse for a substantial discrepancy in pay. In some cases the difference of work is considerable—owing to the women's lack of training and experience—and an extra burden is placed upon the men remaining on the staff; but as experience is gained women will no doubt be able, in many occupations, to work under equal conditions if no artificial barriers are put in their way.

First-Hand Experiences.

III.—CHECKING THE DESPATCH OF HAY.

An enjoyable and by no means arduous occupation lately opened up to women is that of supervising the packing, weighing, and expediting of hay and straw. It was to take up these duties that I set out one glorious August morning from Paddington with all the feeling of a pioneer, and found, on arrival at my destination in South Wales, that work was to be carried on amid ideal surroundings—fields of meadow, corn, and green upland, with the Bristol Channel in the distance, and, on the opposite side, the Somerset hills, with a glimpse of Devon shores. Equally delightful were the picturesque old-world quarters in which we were housed. From a dainty bedroom, with roses innumerable clustering round its large bay-window, we descended to a breakfast-parlour which reminded one of some old Flemish interior, with its grandfather-clock and treasures of old china and burnished copper. Only the rush and whistle of a not-far-distant train reminded us of modern times.

Our duties, which began at 8 a.m., were few, but had to be performed with the greatest exactitude. Our instructions were to see the hay duly weighed and recorded, noting down whether it was baled, that is to say, wired, or trussed—that is corded. Then, again, we had to note whether the baled hay had two wires or three. If two, it was meadow hay—fine, sweet-scented stuff from the uplands, fit for pedigree horses; if three, then it was seed hay, a coarser kind, sometmes mixed with clover and other flowers, used for feeding cattle or for bedding.

Also, if it had two trusses or cords, it was to be sent to one destination, and, if three trusses, to another. On no account whatever must the baled and the trussed hay be sent together. Each truss or bale had a label to say whence it came, giving both the name of the dealer and the farmer, and the trucks in which they were finally packed had also a special label. Of all these things we had to make a careful note, the consignment order having to be in duplicate, while we kept a third copy ourselves.

It is a liberal education to watch a team of two or three splendid Welsh horses drawing a waggon-load of hay to the weigh-bridge. They know the way blindfold, and stop of their own accord at a given point, for so much tare must be allowed for each waggon. The weigh-bridge is an iron plate set in the ground, on which the waggon stands while the lever recording the weight is in a small slated house containing a desk and book of records. So, the first waggon is weighed, and passes on to the railway-truck, where, the trucks being duly swept and garnished, the bales or trusses are counted and labelled and put in one by one, all this needing careful supervision lest the bales should be mixed up and dire confusion arise. The bales are loaded up over the ridge of the waggon three deep, but not more, for there is a gauge, or archway of iron, beneath which each truck must pass to ensure that it is not too high or overloaded.

The firm dispatching our particular hay, being one of the highest standing, was extremely particular about neatness and cleanliness, so there was a general overhauling and sweeping of trucks before the hay was put in, for trucks which had harboured bricks or coal, or such unsavoury things as sheepskins, were not considered suitable for hay which was to feed such important animals as officers' steeds. In some cases, not only were the trucks well swept out but a layer of coarse hay was put at the bottom lest the smell of its last cargo should be absorbed and offend the fastidious nose of some delicately-nurtured charger.

And, indeed, it would be a shame to spoil the delicious fragrance of such hay. How we revelled in it! Where we worked we were within a few yards of the meadow in which a machine was still mowing, and the scent of the fresh-cut grass, mingled with that of the seasoned hay in bales upon the waggons and that of the clover among the seed hay, redolent of summer. It was for us a blissful existence, and we were sorry when it came to an end.

When the weather was fine the teams continued to arrive at the station from before 8 a.m. until the same hour or later in the evening. Care must be taken that each truck, as soon as filled, is sheeted with a large tarpaulin and corded, for if a thunderstorm came on during the night, and the hay were uncovered, speedy deterioration would be the result.

A. DE C.

Some Magazines of the Week.

The Engineer for September 3rd contains a very interesting and handsomely illustrated account of "The Employment of Women as Machinists" in a large Glasgow munition factory. The number of girls employed, 300, is shortly to be increased to 360. The firm in question, Messrs. Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., were among the first to realise that the threatened shortage of men-workers must be met by giving selected women-workers a careful preliminary training. The writer gives a full account of how they set about this, making the modifications at the works required for introducing so large a new element of girl-labour; a mess-room being set apart for meals, lady-superintendents appointed to see after their health and comfort, and a course of instruction provided. "Some of the girls have now been at work for about four months, and were first trained by special instructors, selected from men employed in other departments of Messrs. Beardmore's works, assisted by skilled operators sent down from the makers of several of the machines." This last point is especially deserving of note. As one result of this care and foresight in giving a sound training, it may fairly be said that the employment of women in the shops has passed the experimental stage.

"We no longer have to confine ourselves to generalities, but can give a concrete example. To those with knowledge of the general capabilities of machine-tools, judged from the standpoint of past experience, the justice of an assertion that the results achieved are astonishing will be quite evident. They *are* astonishing. . . . The girls employed were entirely new to the work to which they were put, but so great was their enthusiasm that they became adepts, in the processes which they had to carry out, in a remarkably short space of time. . . . The girls will not admit that the work is too heavy for them, and to see them handling 4.5-inch shell bodies on the large combination lathes, without using mechanical assistance or the labourers provided by the firm, is a pleasure. Their health appears to be good; they are gaining in muscle and skill every week, and the quality of the work they turn out is all that can be desired."

"Unstinted praise," adds the writer, "is due to all members of the staff; to the skilled charge-men, who have most loyally assisted the management; to the lady-superintendents, who so well look after the comfort of the girls; to the girl-overseers; and last, but by no means least, to the girls themselves, who are, by their patriotic example, so ably demonstrating the possibilities of female labour."

Cordial recognition is also due to the employers' foresight and forethought in preparing for the change.

Women's Employment, of September 3rd, contains a useful article on gardening for women. The writer considers that, "given capital, a thorough working knowledge of gardening, and business instincts, success is fairly secure," but that it offers a much more serious problem to the average woman with only a small amount of capital:—

"She is usually not well enough off to employ continuous assistance, and casual labour is as a rule unsatisfactory. It is this economic harassment which is the great drain on the average woman gardener. She attempts too much for her strength, a state of things which too often means a nervous breakdown and a prolonged rest cure, during which time she has to relinquish all that she has gained. Indeed, the weak spot in women's gardening is that they are too ambitious and expect too big a return. The average man engaged in the same work, gets along with very little. He is essentially a market gardener and nothing more. His garden is his life, and he has no concern beyond it. His women folk look after his creature comforts, and his neighbours are usually responsible for such recreation as he allows himself. With the woman gardener, however, circumstances are much more complicated. Drawn usually from a higher social order than her male competitor, she attempts to carry into her new sphere all the refinements of the class to which she belongs. If there is no one else to undertake it, she carries on the management of her domestic and social affairs along with her other work, and the result is nervous exhaustion and collapse. Women, if they are to make a success of gardening, will have to become much more single-eyed. It will not have to be as it is now, gardening plus a multitude of other interests, but all their nerve energy will have to be conserved for the one end—their work."

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Book Reviews.

The International Crisis in its Ethical and Psychological Aspects. Lectures delivered in February and March, 1915, by Eleanor M. Sidgwick, Gilbert Murray, A. C. Bradley, L. P. Jacks, G. H. Storel, and B. Bosanquet. (Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

This is one of the best books published on the deeper philosophic questions raised by the war. The essays, though written independently, show a singular harmony of feeling. Mrs. Sidgwick brings into relief, and repudiates, the ideas of the Neo-Machiavellianism which have caused so much harm to Germany and the world, the idea that "a nation is a law to itself," the idea expressed by a German professor in 1875 that "the maintenance of the State justifies every sacrifice and is superior to every moral rule." At the same time she shows, and nobly, the duty of not hating the Germans and not despairing of so great a nation, recognising their patriotism while we maintain our own. What might be called the raw material of patriotism, the primitive "herd-instinct," is discussed by Gilbert Murray with real insight and refreshing wit. The weakness of "herd-justice" is hit off in a few telling sentences. "It only sees things in herds. 'The Germans' did so-and-so; therefore punish 'the Germans': 'the English' did so-and-so; therefore punish 'the English.' Whenever a herd is offended by some action, it is made happy by punishing as dramatically as possible several people who did not do it." Yet herd-instincts hold in themselves "new strength and courage, the sense of brotherhood, the spirit of discipline and self-sacrifice."

The belief in the greatness of this finer side supports at once Mr. Jack's estimate of our national temper and the changes it has undergone through war and A. C. Bradley's analysis of national and international morality. Holding as he does that "the end of the State is nothing short of the best possible life of its members," Bradley is able to unite nationalism and internationalism. "A State can do no wrong to another which is not equally, or even more, a wrong to itself." And thus, while he is convinced that "the primary and main duty of the State to other States is the contribution of its own best life," he can claim that "no one can be more convinced that it is sometimes the duty of a State to forego an advantage, to run a risk, and even to injure itself in some degree, in order to help another actively or allow another to develop itself, if (I must add) it is satisfied that this is to the advantage of mankind." Thus Bradley, and to some extent Bosanquet, in the fine concluding lecture, indicate that the fulfilment of true national patriotism may be found "in a group or world of States" recognising each other and co-operating, perhaps in a definite coherent organisation. If that glorious vision is ever attained, it will surely be through such a spirit as animates this book, a spirit at once not afraid to use force in a just cause, and determined to abjure that hatred which is blind to Spinoza's great saying, "Nothing is more useful to a man than a man." (p. 115.)

The War, and What After? By Raymond Unwin. (Letchworth Garden City Press. 1s.)

A quite admirable little treatise, written with simplicity, clearness, moderation, and force, urging on all "average men and women," as well as experts, the need of thinking and working for some organ of international life that would provide a rational settlement for our disputes. The hope of this sustains many of us in the present awful conflict, as it sustained one who died fighting against us, the young Marschall von Bieberstein, and it is comforting to recall, as Mr. Unwin recalls, some of the great names, Sully in France, Penn in England, Kant in Germany, who have urged it on the world. Mr. Unwin looks upon its achievement as only one more step in the great process by which law has come gradually to control human relations, "a difficult step, no doubt, perhaps the most difficult, but only the last at the top of a very long flight which has already been climbed." He recommends warmly Lowes Dickinson's pamphlet *After the War*, advocating as it does for a first beginning towards such international union, a League of the Nations binding themselves to submit all "justiciable" disputes to arbitration, and to refer all others to a court of conciliation. In the first case, the decisions should in the last resort be enforced by the military strength of the League; in the second it might be wiser to rely only on public opinion to support the award of an impartial court.

Towards International Government. By J. A. Hobson. (London. George Allen & Unwin. 2s. 6d.)

A reasoned and detailed exposition of some such scheme as that suggested above. Mr. Hobson has an inspiring belief in its possibility, and his work is of the utmost value as a storehouse of information, argument, and suggestion. Perhaps one of the most interesting sections, as we might expect from Mr. Hobson, is that dealing with "problems of economic opportunity." The increasing "dependence of modern civilised and thickly populated countries for the necessaries of life and industry upon free access to other countries," the "competition between groups of financiers and concessionaries organised upon a 'national' basis," show that it is vital to the interests of peace that growing nations should be assured, as far as possible, 'equal opportunities for advantageous trade or exploitation.'" These problems can never be solved except in an international spirit, and it would be a supreme benefit if some organ could be developed in which that spirit would work more freely than it can at present.

F. M. S.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Correspondence.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF W.S. SOCIETIES AND THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CONTROL.

MADAM,—In reference to Mrs. Swanwick's letter, printed in your issue of September 3rd, will you allow me to remind your readers that the N.U.W.S.S. is a non-party association, formed for the sole purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary Franchise for Women.

When the European War broke out, and our own country was involved in it, the Executive Committee, after consultation by post with the Societies in the Union, resolved temporarily to suspend political agitation for Women's Suffrage, and (*a*) to endeavour to mitigate the economic distress caused by the war, and, later, (*b*) to do their utmost to sustain the vital energies of the nation so long as such special effort seemed to be required. These departures from strict Suffrage work were endorsed by the first Council Meeting held after the outbreak of war, in February last. These, therefore, are the principles which underlie all our present activities. This same Council Meeting passed what we call "the Asquith" resolution, and also, immediately afterwards, passed another declining to recommend to the Societies active political propaganda in its support. My view of these two resolutions is that while supporting, indeed, "accepting as fundamental" the principles laid down by Mr. Asquith in Dublin a year ago, as those which should govern the European settlement after the war, our Council held that the time was not ripe nor our own knowledge sufficient, to justify us in undertaking an active political campaign in their support. I maintain that it is for the N.U. Council and the N.U. Council alone to decide when, if ever, that time shall arrive, and I object very strongly to Mr. Morel's action in approaching the Hon. Secretaries and officers of our Societies and asking them, quite independently of the decisions of our Council, and in direct contravention of the spirit of the second resolution just mentioned, to form groups within their Societies to be affiliated to the Union of Democratic Control.

I do not intend further to attempt to dispel Mrs. Swanwick's amazement and befogment about the policy of the N.U.W.S.S., but I will suggest to her some considerations which may help to lighten her darkness. First, that the N.U.W.S.S. is a non-party organisation, therefore its activities must be national and not sectional in character, not, accordingly, identified with the interests of any one particular party; secondly, that any non-Suffrage work which we undertake must be of a character either to relieve economic distress or calculated to sustain the vital energies of the nation.

In some instances the N.U.W.S.S. has co-operated, during the past year, with other societies in work of a national character conducted on non-party lines. But surely it is evident that such co-operation to be really effective should be preceded by discussion as to its lines and limitations between the officers of the societies concerned, and should, before final ratification or rejection, be submitted to their several executive committees. All these conditions have been absent in the case under discussion.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

GERMAN TRADE AS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA.

MADAM,—I should like very strongly to protest against the expression, "ferocious fanaticism which has given birth to the Anti-German Union," contained in the letter signed "Catherine C. Osler," in your last issue. The "Anti-German Union" is the result of patriotism and commonsense. It does not inculcate sentiments of hatred, least of all against individual Germans. But it is a protest against German methods of barbarism in warfare, of treachery and dishonesty *in times of peace*. It has been abundantly proved and demonstrated that the leaders of Germany (not only her statesmen, but her writers and teachers) have for the last forty years been steadily working towards one goal—the seizure of the British Empire. For this they have built a great fleet (utterly unnecessary for defensive purposes), and have worked in the piping times of peace by means of bribery and intrigue, to frustrate any movement in the British Empire which would appear to further a protective tariff, or national military service, both of which they dreaded. The Anti-German League is simply an effort to keep the bulk of British trade for the British, and to prevent it being recaptured by the Germans. I wonder whether Mrs. Osler considers this "ferocious fanaticism." If so, then I am afraid that the democracy of this country is mainly composed of ferocious fanatics.

A. SPON.

THRIFT HINTS.—V.

Those who have a gas ring can often arrange to let the kitchen fire out in the middle of the day, or in the evening, by arranging a cold meal beforehand, and can cook vegetables over the gas ring. This saves a good deal in fuel. If a square of sheet iron (sold by the pound at the ironmongers) is cut large enough for two saucepans to stand on, and placed on the gas ring, the sheet soon becomes hot enough to boil the saucepans, so that the gas jet may be made to boil two pots at the same time. Here are some inexpensive recipes for a cold lunch :—

Cold Buttered Eggs, served in pipkins with shredded lettuce.

Beef Jelly.—Take 1½ lbs. shin of beef, cut into small pieces, put into stew-pan, with pepper, salt, carrots, onions, and also bay-leaf to flavour. Pour in 1½ pints of cold water, stew gently until reduced about half. When cooked, remove the meat, cut into very small pieces (almost shred). Rinse out a cake tin with cold water, and press the meat firmly into it, pour in stock, and keep the meat pressed down with saucer or plate on top. When set, dip the mould in hot water and turn out.

Coffee Curds.—¾ pint of milk, ¼ pint strong clear coffee, made lukewarm, and set, with one tabloid of rennet (first dissolved in a little water), in a glass or china dish. Serve with coarse brown sugar.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

Co-education and National Service.

BY J. H. BADLEY.

For some time now co-education has been on trial in this country, as in others, in schools of various types, and the arguments for and against it have been discussed with growing interest. Probably by most people it is still regarded as a fad, highly dangerous in the eyes of some, to others, possibly, even good, perhaps, for a particular kind of child or under unusual conditions; but, at best, a side-issue in education, an experience with some interest of its own, but with little bearing on larger problems. It has been advocated, on grounds ranging from considerations of economy up to its bearing on the moral problems of adolescence; sometimes from the point of view of the gain to the boys of more civilising influences; sometimes from that of a fuller life and broadening outlook for the girls. But whatever weight there may be—and, beyond doubt, there is much—in all such reasons, there is another reason for thinking it worthy of trial, that is plainer now than it was before the war threw its searchlight on so many questions and showed them in a new aspect.

This past year has brought home to us all, as never before, the need for co-operation and for national service. I am not using these last words as a euphemism for conscription. Whatever we may think about the need for compulsory military service now, or for compulsory training for the future, that is but one part of the larger national service open to us all and required of all, women equally with men. The war has made this plain to all, with its call for necessary work of every kind, in hospital, factory, farm, and office, to which women are responding as eagerly as the men to the call to the trenches. And when the war is over is it conceivable that things will settle back as they were before; that we shall willingly let go this new feeling of unity and the delight in common effort, and let the old clash of warring interests resume its sway? To some extent, no doubt, it must inevitably be so, for the divisions are too deep and the questions at stake too vast to be forgotten or settled in a few months, or even years, of enforced co-operation. But already they look different. Neither the old party questions nor the labour question nor the sex question will be the same after the war, and the new conditions and experiences that it has brought. There will be a consciousness of common aims and common work that cannot be forgotten. The actual question of the suffrage will still have to be settled; but of the larger question that lies behind it, of which the vote is only the symbol—the demand for equality of citizenship and work and opportunity—the greater part will have been settled by experience. Like the old puzzle of Achilles and the tortoise that worried the thinker, it is solved by action.

Co-operation for national service is the need of the present time, and of the future as well. The country needs our work together for common aims as much in time of peace as in time of war. And this is the great value of co-education: that it gives the necessary training in common work for common ends, and establishes the habit of working and thinking together as the simplest and most natural thing. Those who have grown up together from childhood, through the years when habits of

thought and character begin to set, who have worked together at the same intellectual problems in the class-room, and outside it, at the same problems of conduct and government, will not feel the same difficulties in tackling the larger political and social problems together as those who have been brought up in an atmosphere of mutual ignorance and distrust, and have been led to suppose that there is only an emotional link between them. It is mainly a question of the habit of mind in which one approaches the problem; and, here again, things which seem so puzzling to thought prove simple in actual experience.

I do not mean, of course, that juxtaposition at school is all that is required. If the sexes are encouraged to compete against one another in the class-room and the playground, if they are treated as marked out by nature into superior and inferior, opposed in interests, and dangerous to each other, the results will be disappointment and disaster.

The value of co-education depends on two things: first, on the conditions of the school life that is shared, and the habits of common action that these conditions determine; and, secondly, on the convictions that underlie this common life, and the ideals that are unconsciously imbibed from their daily and hourly application. Co-education need not dispense with common-sense. Equality does not necessarily mean identity either in work or treatment. Development of individuality is (or should be) an aim in all education; and boy and girl can grow up just as much boy and girl, even though three-quarters of their life is the same, and we recognise their common humanity no less than their differences. And it is this common life, with the attitude of mind that it develops and the habit of joint action for common aims that it leaves, that is the great contribution that co-education has to make to the national service.

Equality of action and of treatment in most respects, natural differences and superiorities frankly recognised where they exist, common interests in the main concerns of life, and common service to the community as the ideal and daily practice of both sexes alike—this is what co-education, rightly understood, can give; a training in co-operation more needed now than at any previous stage of our history, as this momentous time, so full of encouragement and promise, as well as of honour and suffering and loss, is making increasingly plain.

What is Happening in Poland?

AN EMPRESS'S PROPHECY.

A question we are all asking is answered by no less than three contributors to *The Fortnightly Review* for September. One article, by a Polish writer, gives in brief the troubled history of the Poles since the First Partition of 1772, and puts forward a plea, on historic grounds, for Polish independence at the end of this war. The second is an appalling narrative of the sufferings of Russian and Austrian Poland; and the third, by a writer who was in Kiev and witnessed the stream of fugitives from Galicia flying before the German advance, gives an account of Russian efforts to alleviate the awful misery caused by the war.

THE PROPHECY.

As one cause, perhaps one chief cause, of to-day's European conflagration, was the Partition of 1772, it is interesting to recall what the three perpetrators of the crime had to say about it.

Catherine, Empress of Russia, who got the largest part of the plunder, apparently said nothing at all. Frederick "the Great," King of Prussia (who had already helped himself to Silesia, which belonged to a neighbour "unprepared" for war), got the most valuable bit. He expressed himself curtly and characteristically: "This acquisition was one of the most important we could make, because it joined Pomerania to East Prussia; and because, rendering us masters of the Weichsel river, we gained the double advantage of being able to defend East Prussia and to draw considerable tolls from the Weichsel, for all the trade of Poland goes by that river!"

The name of Hohenzollern means "high toll house," for it was an hereditary occupation in Frederick's family to levy tolls on other people's trade. But even his panegyrist Carlyle, who thinks "no word of approval or apology permissible," feels obliged to exclaim: "For the claims and interests of Poland, not one word!" No; neither then nor thereafter.

But the Empress of Austria, Maria Theresa, received the third share with an utterance so remarkable and so prophetic that it seems worth quoting, as a sort of footnote to history, before returning to the subject of Poland to-day in *The Fortnightly Review*. We have "one small document from Maria Theresa's hand," Carlyle says, "which all hearts, and I suppose even Frederick's, had he ever read it, will pronounce to be very beautiful, homely, faithful, wholesome"—might he not have added "just"?

The document was sent by the Empress to her chancellor, Prince Kaunitz: "When all my lands were invaded" (by this same King of Prussia) "and I knew not where in the world I should find a place to be brought to bed in, I relied on my good right and the help of God. But in this thing, where not only public law cries to heaven against us, but also all natural justice and sound reason, I must confess never in my life to have been in such trouble, and am ashamed to show my face. Let the Prince consider what an example we are giving to all the world, if for a miserable piece of Poland or of Moldavia or Wallachia" (ancient names for Balkan countries which have been a very Naboth's vineyard to her descendent the Emperor Franz Josef) "we throw our honour and reputation to the winds. I see well that I am alone and no more in vigour, and therefore must I, though to my very great sorrow, let things take their course."

So, a little later, Maria Theresa gave her official assent to the Partition of Poland, but she added these words after her signature: "Long after I am dead it will be known what this violating of all that was hitherto sacred and just will give rise to." We are beginning to know now.

THE FULFILMENT.

Maria Theresa had been dead nearly a century when Treitschke was constrained to admit that "Germany has swallowed the Poles, yet has not been able to digest them," although Germany had applied her most rigorous methods of "Germanification."

Dr. G. de Swietochowski's article in *The Fortnightly Review* on "Poland and Her Rôle in Europe" is a brief survey of Poland's struggle to keep her soul alive, in spite of Germanification. "In Germany Polish culture was in the greatest danger. Schools were propagating German ideals, children were punished for refusing to pray in German, teachers were not permitted to speak Polish in their homes. Polish papers were constantly censored . . . the Polish language was prohibited at public meetings, Polish landowners were forcibly expropriated." Then "the machinery of German civilisation, being more highly organised," ground far smaller than Russian tyranny. Though in Russian Poland life and liberty were not secure, the national, intellectual, and spiritual life was not systematically stifled by "Germanification." In Austrian Poland, perhaps, because the Poles are of the same faith as their rulers, there has been more sympathy and toleration. Elsewhere Roman Catholicism, by keeping the Poles apart among Orthodox Russians and Lutheran Germans, has only helped to conserve their nationality. Dr. Swietochowski pleads for an *independent* Poland as a powerful factor of international peace, as a buffer State between Russia and Germany. "Under German rule material prosperity would, no doubt, rapidly advance," but it is not likely that the Prussians would keep their word with regard to any liberties promised to the new province. Germany is fully aware of the menace to her trade from the 3,000,000 Poles which she has so far been unable to assimilate. "Taking into consideration the rapid growth of the Polish population compared with her own, and the danger of Polish colonisation in Westphalia and on the Rhine, Germany is not likely to add some 20,000,000 of the same element to the other three without taking radical steps to ensure her own supremacy." Poles under German rule would always be a subject-race and a danger to the peace of Europe.

Of Poland in war-time, the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., gives a very terrible picture. The work of the Kaiser's "destructive sword" has been done more thoroughly, more cruelly, and on a far greater scale than in Belgium. The atrocities committed there are "mild compared with those committed in Poland." The wretched peasants "think that God has forgotten them as He did the innocent in Kielce and Sieradz, and, in their despair, set fire to their villages and destroy themselves." Nothing has been respected. Not women, nor children, nor old age, not even the bitter poverty which has nothing worth looting and carrying off. Even the sanctuaries have been wrecked.

The shrine of Czenstochowa, the holiest in Poland, contained

a sacred picture which the peasants came on pilgrimage hundreds and even thousands of miles to see and worship. It was an old Byzantine picture of the Virgin and Child.

"A small, almost black, square, set in a splendid frame of diamonds, rubies, emeralds, topazes, and pearls, with a background, as of beaten gold," for the dim, shadowy image of the "Little Mother" and the Child—it is "one of the oldest pictures in Christendom," and so beloved and sacred that it was called "the Heart of the Heart of Poland." The retreating Russians believed, no doubt, that the Germans would respect the shrine. But the jewellery was a rich prize. "The Heart of the Heart of Poland" was wrenched from its setting and dispatched to Berlin as part of the Kaiser's share of the loot. "Then, in its place, to the dazed horror of the citizens and all Poles, a vulgar portrait of the Kaiser in uniform was raised above the dismantled altar, lights were placed before it, and the wretched people were daily driven in by the brutal German soldiers to kneel before it. . . . The peasants of Poland now regard the German Emperor as the representative of Satan, if not Satan himself," though it appears that the Germans have now realised their error and put up a replica of the famous picture above the high altar.

Indescribable hosts of fugitives poured out from Poland before the German advance. Mr. John Pollock, who saw "The Refugees at Kiev," gives an appalling account of this vast exodus from Galicia. "Not, perhaps, since the settlement of Europe after the great movement known as the Wandering of the Peoples has there been in our hemisphere so frightful an upheaval of social life as has marked the track of the Teutonic armies in Poland and Galicia during this war. And now, as the degree of civilisation is higher, so much the more profound is the depth of suffering. . . . It is impossible not to be stirred to the depths of your soul. . . . They have nothing; wherever they are their abode is the same. Can they ever escape from this hell? They hardly believe it."

It is difficult to forecast the future for a nation who might conceivably have built up a barrier between Teutonic aggression on the one hand and Russian ambitions on the other, and played a great civilising part in bridging the gulf between Teuton and Slav. But if we look backwards, we can plainly see how the policy of Prussia, Russia, and Austria ended in chaos and conflagration, when "for a miserable piece of Poland, or Moldavia, or Wallachia they threw their honour and reputation to the winds."

E. G.

A DAY'S OUTING FROM USKUB.

We are taking a week's holiday in Uskub—three of us, from the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. It is only two days' journey from Kragujevatz, and by wheedling an eight-day week out of our Commander-in-Chief we had four whole days to spend wandering in and around this Oriental town.

One day we drove out to a Turkish village, some six miles beyond Uskub, past the old Mahommedan cemeteries, where shepherds now pasture their flocks of sheep and goats, and through acres of immense white and purple poppies grown for opium. Turning off into a side valley we had to cross the river by a ford. The stream was fairly full and the current running pretty strong. Half-way across, the driver let his horses stand to cool their legs and take a drink; he rested thus in mid-stream, admiring the scenery, when suddenly one of the horses lay down and took a bath. The carriage assumed a strong list to port, the driver shouted and cursed, and lashed the poor animal, who discovered it was not so easy to get up again in harness. We wondered if we, too, were going to have a bath, when the horse got to its feet, and the pair dashed off wildly to the opposite bank. It was quite an exciting five minutes, but I think we really enjoyed it.

Arrived at the village of Lubos, which is entirely surrounded by a high stone wall, and entered by two gates furnished with strong bolts and bars, we left the carriage and went inside, rather uncertain as to whether we should be welcome or not. To our surprise, a charming peasant in Albanian costume greeted us, and invited us to the chief's house, which was entered by a rough wooden outer stairway leading to a delightful balcony built out over the stair and commanding a view of most beautiful country. Here, sitting cross-legged on cushions and smoking a long "hookah" pipe, we found the chief. He greeted us most cordially, as though we were long-expected visitors, and was interested to hear that we were sisters from the Scottish Hospital. After a short spell of halting conversation we were offered Turkish coffee in little cups without handles, and cigarettes which were lighted with a live ember held in a pair of tongs.

The old man informed us, with much pride, that he had five wives and twelve sons, but that one of his sons had lain sick for fifteen weeks and was no better. "You are surely God-sent visitors," he told us, "for perhaps you will go to see my son, tell us what to do for him, and he will soon get well." So we proceeded to the other end of the village, past tobacco fields and orchards, and found the sick man in a house somewhat similar to the chief's. He was lying on a comfortable bed of mattresses on the floor, well-cared for but very weak and ill. Here we squatted on cushions, and were served with more coffee and cigarettes, whilst an aged crone fanned us all the time. The whole clan crowded into the room to hear the words of wisdom uttered by the Scottish Sisters. They insisted on calling me the "Doktaritza" (doctor), and as the other two nodded and said "Yes," I gave in, and tried to look very wise. The boy, as a matter of fact, was just exhausted after a bad attack of fever, and his worst ailment was a ghastly bedsore, which would, with the best care, probably take weeks, or even months, to heal. I prescribed a healing lotion which they could get from the chemist at Uskub, and suggested a few improvements in his diet. I don't know what I should have done without Miss Smith, who did the interpreting, she being the only one of us who could say anything intelligible in Serbian. The whole family assembled to bid us good-bye at the gate, and, amidst many expressions of gratitude, we took our departure. A photograph was taken, which amused them greatly, and we got into our fiacre, driving back without further excitements, but with the memory of a most interesting day.

E. Sylvia Boykett.

A JAPANESE HOSPITAL IN PARIS.

During a visit to Paris, on a special mission from the French Red Cross, Miss Burke, of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Hospital, paid an interesting visit to the Japanese Military Hospital in the Champs Elysées. The first point that struck her was the proximity of the Japanese Hospital to that of the Russians. There were the one-time enemies, working side by side in connection with the sufferings of a common Ally. The next thing which she remarked was its similarity to any other military hospital. Anyone expecting an Oriental atmosphere, or anything markedly different from the hospitals of the West, would be disappointed.

Yet the Hospital is entirely staffed by Japanese doctors and nurses; and very efficient they are. Moreover, the whole of its magnificent equipment has been supplied from Japan. Every instrument, from the most complicated steriliser to the smallest probe, bears the trade mark of a Japanese manufacturer. Nothing is lacking; there is a special dental room, and so complete is the equipment, that it even includes a magnetic bullet extractor. There are several rooms filled with cotton wool, &c., done up in rice paper, and in the store rooms is seen the only truly Oriental touch, for the packets are labelled with long streamers of paper which flutters in the breeze, showing Japanese writing.

There are twenty-six nurses, much beloved by the patients, who say that with their bright eyes and quick movements, they are like little birds fluttering about. But they are remarkably capable little birds; and many a French soldier will carry away with him evidence of those quaintly courteous beings, who request him to "be so good as to bend your honourable back, in order that I may remove my unworthy bandage."

The Secretary of the Hospital told Miss Burke that he had been to Royaumont, and had enjoyed his visit so much that he intended to ask permission to go to Troyes. He seems to have been specially struck by the perfect discipline and cleanliness of our Women's Hospital.

GREAT JOINT DEMONSTRATION

OF

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes, United Suffragists, Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, Women Writers' Suffrage League, Herald League, B.S.P., The Dockers' Union, and branches of the I.L.P., Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists, Electrical Trade Union, National Union of Railwaymen, and others

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Thrift Lectures.

The Thrift Syllabus, for which many societies are eagerly asking, will shortly be issued, and, in this connection, it may be interesting to record an innovation. A series of lecture-classes are this week being held in the new Tea Room, at 50, Parliament Street, for the benefit of those N.U. organisers whose services will be placed at the disposal of societies as lecturers on this subject.

Mrs. McKillop, the Gamaliel at whose feet the organisers are sitting, is the well-known expert in food values and economics, who has given valuable help to Headquarters in compiling the Thrift Syllabus, and whose services as lecturer will be available in this connection. Mrs. McKillop sketched out the following general scheme for the classes :—

1. General problem of economy of food. Study of science of a complete diet. Economy in fuel. Large scale cooking and co-operation.
2. National supply of food. Changes since the war.
3. Savings. War loan. National debt. Taxation.
4. General summing-up, to be followed by discussion, questions, and suggestions.

There will also be lectures on civic health given by Dr. May Thorne; the proper planting of a small garden, by Mrs. Chamberlain; and how to start a school for mothers, by Mrs. Russell.

The first class closed with an onslaught on a loaf of rye bread which had been made in Wales, and had kept fresh for several days, apparently, like wine, improving in the keeping.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	7,091	17	10
Miss Bertha Dixon		10	0
Redcar W.S.S.	1	0	0
Mrs. White Birch	1	1	0
Mr. H. M. and Miss E. M. Leaf	7	2	0
Mrs. Cross		10	0
Miss K. P. Baster		5	0
Miss M. Bridston	1	0	0
Miss Hunt		1	0
Mrs. Wm. Tattersall		10	0
Mrs. Walker	2	0	0
Jarrow Branch, N.B.W.T.A. (2nd donation)		10	6
Mrs. Bradley	1	1	0
Miss Sibyl T. Widdows ...		5	0
Camberley and District W.S.S.	1	1	0
Miss Kitty F. Jones (collected in farthings)		10	
Gateshead W.S.S.	2	10	0
Received for Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund :—			
Mrs. Fyffe	1	0	0
Lady Helen Brassey	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gooch ...	5	0	0
Miss Hilda J. Hartle	1	0	0
Anonymous	3	0	0
Miss Margaret Ashton	20	0	0
The Misses Trollope	10	0	0
Miss Emily Lever	2	2	0
Miss Constance Thresher ...	2	2	0
Miss H. C. Wardale (5th donation)	2	0	0
Miss Puller (2nd donation) ...	2	2	0
	£7,161	11	2

LOST LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE N.U.

In view of the fact that several letters containing Cheques and Postal Orders have lately failed to reach us, we shall be glad if any contributors who have not received an acknowledgment will communicate at once with the Hon. Treasurer, at 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. In order to ensure safe delivery all letters containing money should be registered, and all cheques and postal orders should be crossed.

WOMEN AND WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEES.

On Friday, September 3rd, a small deputation waited on the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to ask that women should be represented on the War Emergency Committees of the county. This deputation was the result of a representative meeting of women organised by the Surrey Suffrage Societies, held in Guildford in July. It had then been unanimously agreed that a deputation should be sent to the Lord Lieutenant to ask that women should be appointed to those committees, and Lady Midleton, Lady Onslow, Mrs. Handley Spicer, Miss Ogilvy (town councillor of Godalming), two representatives of the N.U.W.S.S., a representative of the Co-operative Women's Guild and of the National Union of Teachers had been chosen to be on the deputation.

Mrs. Strachey, who acted as spokesman, asked the Lord Lieutenant if there were instructions for the removal of the civil population in case of invasion, and from whom those instructions were to be obtained, and also, whether he would recommend the co-option of women to the War Emergency Committees. He replied that there were no instructions for the removal of the civil population, that such instructions as had been drawn up were in the hands of the police, and would be obtainable from them should need arise, and lastly, that he would be quite willing to recommend the co-option of women to the local committees and would write to the chairmen to that effect. The deputation then thanked Col. Cubitt and withdrew.

THE PREMIER EXHIBITION OF ARTS & HANDICRAFTS.

¶ **THE ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS has won for itself tributes from the most expert judges as the Premier Women's Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts.**

¶ **Only the best professional work is accepted for exhibition, and a standard of technical skill and originality is a *sine qua non* for all stall-holders.**

¶ **The Exhibition itself represents a practical, organised effort made by women to encourage and stimulate handicrafts and industries amongst women, and to create a greater demand for their skilled work. As such, the Exhibition should have the sympathy and support of every reader of the *Common Cause*, especially at a time when every effort to give prominence to women's skill and ability should be encouraged.**

¶ **This year, the ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION will be held at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, from NOVEMBER 17th to NOVEMBER 27th. There will be exhibits representing all branches of women's art and handicraft, and in some cases exhibitors will be actually at work, executing specimens of their craft.**

¶ **It is hoped that very many readers of the *Common Cause* will attend the exhibition. Further details will be announced later.**

THE MYSTIC.

You think and pray, said the hero brave,
And with sneering lips he spake,
What worth the thought and the prayer to save,
'Tis deeds that heroes make.

You are but vapour, wind and air,
A parasite you feed,
On the fair free toil of those who dare
To do the glorious deed.

Nay, and the mystic smiled and spake :—
You know me not : forlorn
I think and pray for the hero's sake,
His deed from my thought is born.

I am the breath of high endeavour,
The soul of mental strife,
As air, but as air which thou canst not sever
From earth, and still find life.

As sighing wind that has no home
But wanders near and far,
Yet lashes waves to seething foam,
And drives across the bar.

Even so I wander far and near,
Fulfilled with magic art;
I breathe in faith, I banish fear,
I mould the hero heart.

L. F. WARING.

MANCHESTER REST ROOM FOR NURSES.

In order that the sisters and nurses engaged in military and Red Cross hospitals in Manchester may have a quiet place to which they can go when they have an hour or two off duty, a reading and rest room has been opened at the City Art Gallery. Books and daily newspapers are provided, while in an adjoining room light refreshments can be obtained. When the room was opened on September 7th, there was a large attendance of sisters and nurses, and it is expected that the room will be greatly appreciated.

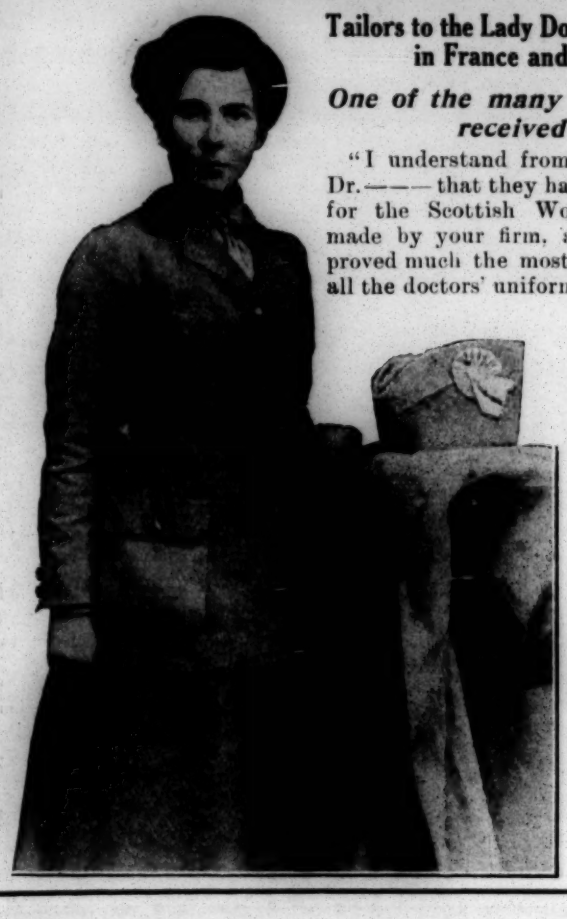
SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

MUNRO & Co.

Tailors and Habit Makers,

85-87, Shandwick Place, EDINBURGH, W.

(Opposite St. George's U.F. Church).



Tailors to the Lady Doctors on service in France and Serbia.

One of the many testimonials received:—

"I understand from Dr.——— and Dr.——— that they had their uniforms for the Scottish Women's Hospital made by your firm, and these have proved much the most satisfactory of all the doctors' uniforms I have seen."

TAILORED COSTUMES from 4 Guineas.

If you cannot visit us, send a good fitting coat, and we guarantee a smart fitting costume in any style.

Telephone: BRIXTON 1852.

GEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS,

Chief Office: **254, BRIXTON HILL, S.W.**

Exhibitor at British Silk Exhibition, 1912. Established 50 Years.

We are celebrated for Cleaning and Dyeing

COURT DRESSES, DAY AND EVENING GOWNS, BLOUSES, CLOAKS, WRAPS, LACES, OSTRICH FEATHERS, FURS, :: :: AND GLOVES. :: ::

GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS. WINDOW HANGINGS, CARPETS, RUGS, CHINTZES, :: AND CRETONNES. ::

Special attention is given to Mourning orders.

Instructions by Post or Telephone command immediate attention.

TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	58,722	3	4
Mrs. Marshall, per Mrs. G. E. Foster, Hon. Sec., Ilkley W.S.S., to name "Dixon-Marshall" Bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
Mrs. P. Inglis		2	6
Collected from Officers of the Ward Room Mess, H.M.S. *Indefatigable*, per A. A. Morrison, Esq., Ward Room Mess Sec. (Serbia)	20	0	0
Collected by Miss Louie Irving, to name "Wallacetown, Glencairn" Bed (Kraguievatz)	25	0	0
*Mrs. Griffin, per Miss Pilkington, Hon. Sec.	1	0	0
Mrs. Brownlie	1	0	0
Miss Margaret Wright	1	1	0
*Findlay B. Anderson, Esq., per Messrs. Lindsay, Jamieson & Haldane (Royaumont)	10	0	0
Mrs. T. E. Miller	1	0	0
Miss Annie T. Paterson ...		2	0
Miss F. J. Stevenson	1	0	0
Mrs. Anstruther, for dressings, &c.	5	0	0
*Collected in Leominster for Serbia, per Miss Agnes Watkins:—By flags (£13 8s. 7d.), by concerts arranged by Y.M.C.A. Sale of Work Committee (£2 3s. 6d.), per Mrs. Dymond, Hon. Treas. (Serbia)	15	11	1
From Galloway Children's Garden Entertainment, per Mrs. Wood (Serbia)		10	0
Mrs. E. S. Oliphant (France)...	3	0	0
Per Mrs. Croom, to name "Skirling Village" Bed and "David B. Croom" In Memoriam Bed	100	0	0
Miss L. A. Carpenter	5	0	0
"A Remembrance"		2	0
Miss Smith, per Mrs Steen (France)		5	0
Miss M. Barr		10	0
Miss A. Rudmose-Brown ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Robert Brown	1	0	0
Anon. per Miss Jessie Beaven, Hon. Sec., Liverpool Women's War Service Bureau (£25) to name Bed (Serbia), (£25) for General Fund (Serbia)	50	0	0
*Patriotic Stationery Co. ...	1	2	0
Miss Gibb (10s.), Miss Dawson (3s. 6d.)		13	6
Mrs. Spicer (5s.), Misses Young (2s.)		7	0
Blackwood Branch (Lanarkshire) Red Cross Soc., per Mr. Martin, Hon. Treas., per Miss Jessie Livingstone, Hon. Treas. for Lanarkshire, to name "Blackwood" Bed (Serbia)	50	0	0
Miss McJannet (Valjevo) ...		10	0
From nine nurses at Kraguievatz, per Miss A. M. Lees, S.W.H., towards "Serbian Nurses" Bed	6	0	0
Redcar Branch N.U.W.S.S., per Mrs. W. S. Fothergill, Co.-Hon. Sec. (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
*From Infant Mistress and Staff, Lumphinnans Infant School, Cowdenbeath, per Miss M. McCallum (Serbia)	1	0	0
*A Californian, per Miss Sinabel Matheson		15	0
Per Mrs. L. S. James, for "June Birthday" Bed (Valjevo or Mladanovatz) ...	25	0	0
Miss S. C. E. Smith		10	0
Miss F. Cochrane	5	0	0
*Miss C. E. Hossack	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Gunn, Collected by Miss Campbell Irons, for "Waterloo Place" Bed: Mr. Beattie (2s. 6d.), Mr. Craik (2s.), Mr. Cathles (£1 1s.), L. Watson, Esq. (£1 1s.), A. Massie, Esq. (£1 1s.), Miss Darling (£1 1s.), Sir Philip Grierson (10s.), Alex. Masterton, Esq. (10s.), Mr. Fraser (2s. 6d.), Estate Duty Office, per G. Ford, Esq. (£8 13s. 6d.), General Post Office, Edinburgh (£6 10s. 3d.). Edinburgh and Leith Corporations Gas Commissioners (£2 7s. 6d.), Messrs. Arthur & Co., collected by four in the business (10s.), —— (2s. 8d.), Prison (4s. 1d.), Darling's Hotel (7s. 1d.)	24	6	1
*Dundee W.S.S., per Miss E. A. Macintyre, Hon. Treas., Dundee Women's War Relief Committee of Ward VI. (£5), A. H. (10s.), Miss Baird (8s.), Miss Paisley (5s.), A Friend (£1), Church of Scotland Women's Guilds and Presbytery of Dundee (for upkeep of "Dundee" Beds, Serbia) (£75), Mrs. Steggall (£25) to name "A Mother's" Bed (Royaumont)	107	3	0
Total	£59,239	13	6

* Denotes additional donation.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

List of Subscribers for "Wick" Bed in Serbia:—Misses Henderson (£6), Col. and Mrs. Henderson (£5), Sir Alex. and Lady Rae (£2), Master and Crew of S.S. "Zoe," of Wick (£2), Academy Concert Funds (£1 1s.), Mrs. Geddes (£1 1s.), Sheriff Trotter (£1 1s.), Mrs. Cormack (£1 1s.), Mrs. Bremner (£1 1s.), Mrs. Robertson (£1 1s.). Mrs. Jamieson (£1), Mrs. Buik (£1), Miss Bruce (£1), Mrs. Georgeson (£1), Mr. Paterson Smith (£1), Mr. Sinclair (£1), Mr. Geo. Clyne (£1), Mrs. Clyne (£1), Mr. A. Mowat (£1), Mr. D. Sandison (£1), Mr. A. W. Falconer (£1), Mr. Turnbull (£1), Mr. Macgreor (£1), Mr. Henry (£1), Sinclair Bros. (£1), Mr. James More (£1), Mr. Robert Sinclair (£1), Major Campbell (£1), Dr. and Mrs. Turnbull (£1), Mrs. Meredith (£1), Mrs. Hatje (£1), Anon. (£1), Mrs. A. Bruce (£1), Dr. Banks (£1), Mr. W. Davidson (£1), Mr. Alex. Miller (£1), Campbell and Coy. (£1), Mr. Ernest Buik (£1), Mrs. Horne (£1), Mr. R. Bruce (10s. 6d.), Mr. D. Sutherland (10s. 6d.), Mr. A. W. Henderson (10s.), Mrs. Dick (10s.), Mrs. Duncan (10s.), Misses Robertson (10s.), Miss Donaldson (10s.), Isobel Dick (10s.), Anon. (10s.), A. J. Maceman (10s.), Miss Fraser (10s.), Mr. Munro (10s.), Mr. Fred Shearer (10s.), Mr. A. Mackenzie (10s.), Miss G. Sinclair (10s.), Mr. A. Bruce (10s.), Anon. (10s.), Alexander and Keith (10s.), A. B. C. (7s. 6d.), G. D. (7s. 6d.), Mr. Maceman (5s.), Mrs. Hector (5s.), Mrs. Simpson (5s.), Miss Simpson (5s.), Rev. Guy Peebles (5s.), Mrs. Kirkland (5s.), Mr. Smith (5s.), Rev. Alex. Ross (5s.), Mr. Bruce (5s.), Mr. Pat Sinclair (5s.), Mr. Dickson (5s.), Mr. W. Gow Miller (5s.), Mr. Geo. Kelly (5s.), Mr. D. H. Wares (5s.), Mr. John Sutherland (5s.), Mrs. Macleod (5s.), Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland (5s.), Mr. R. Grant (5s.), Mr. A. Rugg (5s.), R. S. W. (5s.), Mr. A. Green (5s), W. G. N. (5s), Mr. John Harper (5s.), R.S.W. (5s.), Mr. Mackay (5s.), Mr. D. B. Sandison (5s.), Mr. D. Sutherland (5s.), A. Robertson and Sons (5s.), Mr. Banks (5s.), Mr. W. Dick (5s.), Mr. Fred Wares (5s.), Mrs. Rae (5s.), Father Bonnyman (5s.), Mr. W. K. Cormack (5s.), Mrs. Mossison (5s.), Mr. Milne (3s. 6d.), A Friend (3s. 6d.), Mrs. Clard (3s.), Miss Leith (3s.), Friend (2s. 6d.), Friend (2s. 6d). X. Y. Z. (2s. 6d.), Friend (2s. 6d.), Mr. Thomson (2s. 6d.),, Mrs. Miller Wright 2s. 6d.), Miss Mowat (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Milligan (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Johnston (2s. 6d.), Miss Cumming (2s. 6d.), Mr. Terry (2s. 6d.), Miss Fleet (2s. 6d.), Miss Camerson (2s. 6d.), Mr. Weir (2s. 6d.), Miss Taylor (2s. 6d.), Miss Wookey (2s. 6d.), Miss Nicolson (2s. 6d.), Miss Forbes (2s.), D. C. (2s.), Mr. A. Sinclair (2s.), Mr. Barnie (2s.), R. M. McLeod (2s.), I. G. (1s.), Friend (1s.), Mr. Taylor (1s.), J. Munro (1s.), Friend (2s.). Total, £72 8s. 6d.—by Mrs. Gunn (1s. 8d.). Total ... 72 10 2

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all friends who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Geenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Erratum.—In list for week ending August 26th, Surrey, Sussex and Hants. Federation contribution should read £304 17s. 9d., instead of £310 2s. 4d.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Dixon-Marshall" (Royaumont) ...	Mrs. Marshall, Parkhurst, Langbar Road, Ilkley, per Mrs. Foster, Hon. Sec., Ilkley W.S.S.
"Wallacetown, Glencairn" (Kraguievatz)	Per Miss Louie Irving, Boreland, Dunscore, Dumfriesshire.
"Blackwood" (Serbia)	Blackwood Branch, Lanarkshire Red Cross Soc., per Mr. Martin, Hon. Treas., per Miss Jessie Livingstone, Hon. Treas. for Lanarkshire, The Palace, Hamilton.
"June Birthday" (Serbia)	Per Mrs. L. S. James, Stagehall, Stow.
"Sutherland"	Per Miss Bury, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.
"Waterloo Place"	Per Mrs. Gunn, Collected by Miss Campbell Irons, 14, Pitt Street, Edinburgh.
"A Mother's" Bed (Royaumont) ...	Mrs. Steggall, Woodend, Dundee, per Dundee W.S.S.
"Skirling Village"	Per Mrs. Croom, Skirling, Biggar.
"David B. Croom," In Memoriam ...	Per Mrs. Croom, Skirling, Biggar.
"Isle of Wight" (Troyes)	Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Fed., per Miss Helen Wright.
"New Forest" (Troyes)	Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Fed., per Miss Helen Wright.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Redcar.

On August 26th Mrs. Herbert Samuel, President of the Branch, gave an inspiring and instructive address on "National Thrift." Mrs. Samuel also referred sympathetically to the various forms of war work in which Redcar women were taking part, and which made a large meeting impossible. The branch has sunk all political propaganda during the war, but Mrs. Samuel believed that the cause of women's freedom would not suffer by such acts. Miss Franklin spoke of the economy of wise expenditure, especially with regard to education. Mr. Eltenton urged women to help the country by using paper money, and urged refusing gold, even when offered at the bank. Miss Stead (Vice-President), Mrs. Barkway, and others also spoke.—A collection of £2 was taken for the Central Funds of the N.U.W.S.S. and the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia.

North-Western Federation.

The principal work done by Societies lately has been in connection with the scheme for supplying Suffrage literature in public places in the Federation. Hotels, libraries, and working men's clubs have been visited and have consented willingly to receive and display the papers. The scheme has not been taken up quite as widely as we should wish, possibly owing to the fact that it was started so short a time before the holidays. If we resume the scheme another year, as seems likely, we hope to have a larger and more energetic response. It would be an excellent thing if societies would undertake to supply the papers at local libraries and clubs all the year round. Some societies already do this. When the time comes to resume our full activities we expect to find that some useful ground has been gained. In the compiling of the National Register in this Federation, Suffragists have helped as individuals, not as Societies. Miss Dover and Miss Highton did good work in Keswick, and the energetic Secretary of Carnforth, Miss Dickens, undertook a widely scattered country district.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Paddington—8, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blackheath Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—Tuesday, 2 to 6, at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk.

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 3 to 5.30 p.m.

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street, every Tuesday afternoon, from 2.30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 14.

Worcester—Co-operative Hall, Lantern Lecture—Miss Thurstan on her personal Experiences in Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia—Chair, The Mayoress 8.30

SEPTEMBER 15.

Church Stretton—Town Hall—Miss Thurstan, L.L.A., on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia"—Chair; Mrs. Wood Acton 3.0

SEPTEMBER 16.

Whitechurch (Salop)—Oddfellows' Hall—Miss Thurstan on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia," illustrated by lantern slides 8.0

SEPTEMBER 17.

Ross-on-Wye—Corn Exchange—Miss Thurstan on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia," illustrated by lantern slides—Chair, the Rev. W. A. Powick, M.A. 8.0

A meeting of the Women's Service Organisation will be held in the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, on Tuesday, September 14th, at 8 p.m. The speakers will be The Earl of Derby, Mrs. Parker, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Ben Tillett, and others. Chairman, Mrs. Despard. Reserved seats, 5s., 2s., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained of Miss Parker, Women's Service Organisation, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

A Joint Demonstration of East London Federation of the Suffragettes, United Suffragists, Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, Women Writers' Suffrage League, Herald League, British Socialist Party, The Dockers' Union, and branches of the I.L.P., Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists, Electrical Trade Union, National Union of Railwaymen, and others, will be held at the Opera House, Kingsway, **Sunday, September 9th. Doors open 7 p.m. Admission free.**

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who are anxious to have their carpets, curtains, &c., thoroughly and well cleaned, or faded and stained garments dyed or cleaned, cannot do better than to send them to Messrs. Geo. Webb's Dye Works, 254, Brixton Hill, S.W., where the most up-to-date methods are used and the work done with the greatest care under the personal supervision of Mr. George Webb.

A TON OF COAL FOR 2/6

Wonderful Scientific Discovery which Enables Everyone to save Large Sums in Weekly Housekeeping.

Remarkable Offer to Enable Every Household to Test the Splendid Economic Advantages of "Seldonite," which, at a cost of 2/6 only, makes One Ton of Coal go as far as Two.

The introduction of the wonderful chemical compound, "Seldonite," which doubles the "life" of coal, or, in other words, cuts in half the coal bill, is resulting in something like a sensation.

At this time, when every penny of housekeeping counts, "Seldonite" proves a veritable blessing, for warmth is almost as important as food.

£10 SAVED DURING COAL FIRE SEASON.

Ladies are now finding that they are able to have in kitchen or drawing-room the brightest, cosiest, and hottest fires they wish, and yet make one scuttleful of coal treated with "Seldonite" go as far as two ordinary ones.

A saving such as this is, of course, greatly appreciated, all the more so because servants are pleased when "Seldonite" is used, for fires burn clearer, need less attention, and there is practically no waste, dust, or soot.

No matter how small or large your coal bill, you can effect a wonderful saving by using "Seldonite," and if you use, say, one ton of coals a month, you can easily save from £10 to £15 during the coal fire season.

In order to give the public a most advantageous opportunity of testing "Seldonite" in their own homes, the proprietors have decided for a short while to send post free the full-size 4s. box (sufficient to treat one ton of Coal, Coke, Anthracite or Slack), with full directions, to all readers for only 2s. 6d. Orders and remittances, however, must be sent within the next few days. Five boxes will be forwarded (whilst this offer lasts) for only 10s.

A MOST REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

Already "Seldonite" has found thousands of users who appreciate its cleanly and splendidly economical advantages, and testify to their appreciation by constant repeat orders.

Among the many thousands of delighted users of "Seldonite" are the following:—

The Viscount Elibank,
writes—"I like 'Seldonite' as much as ever, and enclose cheque for a further supply. You can certainly make use of anything I have said in favour of 'Seldonite,' as I wish you every success."

The Viscountess Templetown,
who writes—"I found 'Seldonite' most satisfactory, and will order more when required."

The Lady Swansea,
who writes—"Please send me five more boxes of 'Seldonite.' I was perfectly satisfied with the first trial box, and think it excellent."

Lucy, Countess of Egmont,
who writes—"I am quite satisfied with the 'Seldonite.' Please send me a further supply."

Lady Richardson,
who writes—"I find 'Seldonite' very satisfactory in making a very bright and extra warm fire. It is also much cleaner than ordinary coal."

Lady Frankland,
who writes—"I have much pleasure in stating that I have found 'Seldonite' most satisfactory. It certainly makes the coal last much longer."

Priscilla, Lady Newnes,
who writes—"I find 'Seldonite' most useful. It causes the fire to burn very brightly, and to send out much more heat than usual."

The Dowager Lady Pollen,
who writes—"By all means use my name as a satisfied user of 'Seldonite.' I am much pleased with it."

Lady Shelford,
who writes—"I find 'Seldonite' very satisfactory. The fires burn clear, last long, and retain the heat. In addition to this there is very little smoke."

Louisa Lady Walker,
who writes—"I shall be much obliged if you will send me eleven more boxes of 'Seldonite,' as I and all my family use it and find it quite excellent. The fires are bright and the consumption of coal considerably less."

Lady Mary Cayley,
who writes—"Having found 'Seldonite' very satisfactory in its results, I enclose remittance for a further supply to be sent by return."

Lady Isabel Stewart,
who writes—"I have been using 'Seldonite' on my coals for the last three or four weeks, and find a very great improvement. The coal lasts well, the fires are perceptibly much warmer, and when 'Seldonite' was not used I at once noticed the difference."

Lady Frances Bushby,
who writes—"You are quite at liberty to mention my name as using and approving 'Seldonite,' as I consider the results of the treatment very satisfactory."

Lady Eggar,
who writes—"Please send me a further supply of 'Seldonite' by return. I find it admirable for brightening up the fire."

The Hon. Mrs. Eric Thesiger,
who writes—"You are at perfect liberty to use my name with regard to praising 'Seldonite.' I am very pleased with it."

Sir John Bramston,
who writes—"You are at liberty to use my name as approving 'Seldonite,' as I find it quite successful."

The Rev. Canon Seaton, D.D.,
Villa Loreto, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, who writes—"'Seldonite' has given great satisfaction, and the consumption of the coal has been considerably reduced."

Sir Edward Redford, C.B.,
who writes—"'Seldonite' possesses all the advantages it lays claim to, and is of very considerable benefit. The preparation not only economises coal, but it also ensures an excellent fire. It is, moreover, clean, and gives out more heat in a room than a fire made without 'Seldonite.'"

Sir Charles A. Payton,
who writes—"I find 'Seldonite' very useful and economical. Coal treated with it burns well and slowly, giving good heat and very little ash."

Sir Robert Kennedy, K.C.M.G.,
who writes—"I am perfectly satisfied with 'Seldonite,' as I find that it is conducive to cleanliness and economy, and that coal treated with the preparation burns a bright red and consumes the coal slowly. I have given some 'Seldonite' this year to my coachman, gardeners, etc., and they are much pleased with it."

Colonel Fludyer,
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